

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CU-04 INT-08 SCEM-02 SPC-03

AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20

STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10

NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 FMC-04 CG-00 COA-02

DLOS-06 DRC-01 /222 W
----- 079977

P R 111430Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6562

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

COMCARIBSEAFRON

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0063

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GJ, PINS, PINT

SUBJ: GRENADA PROTEST CONTINUES

REF: A) BTN 0028 B) POS 0072

1. THOUGH SOME BUSINESSES IN GRENADA'S TWO MAJOR TOWNS, ST. GEORGE'S AND GRENVILLE, RE-OPENED THIS WEEK, OTHERS REPORTEDLY HAVE CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR PROTEST STRIKE IN DEFIANCE OF NEW GOG LEGISLATION WHICH TOOK EFFECT JAN 7. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT FRED TOPPIN TOLD NEWSMEN JAN 6 THAT CHAMBER WOULD CHALLENGE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF NEW AMENDMENT TO SHOP HOURS ACT, WHICH IMPOSES EC \$5000/DAY FINE ON BUSINESSES THAT REMAIN CLOSED DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS. TOPPIN SAID STRIKE HAD BEEN 80 PERCENT EFFECTIVE DURING FIRST WEEK DESPITE WITHDRAWALS OF CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION, TEACHERS' UNION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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TECHNICAL AND ALLIED WORKERS' UNION. ESTIMATED 1000 MEMBERS

OF COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS' UNION, SUPPORTED BY STUDENTS, BUSINESSMEN AND PORT WORKERS STAGED PEACEFUL MARCH IN ST. GEORGE'S JAN 8, LED BY CIWU PRESIDENT ERIC PIERRE, IN PROTEST AGAINST THOSE BUSINESSES THAT HAVE RE-OPENED.

2. MOST GASOLINE STATIONS, CLOSED DURING FIRST WEEK OF STRIKE, ALSO RE-OPENED JAN 7 IN COMPLIANCE WITH ANOTHER NEW LAW WHICH WOULD REVOKE LICENSES OF STATION OPERATORS WHO REMAIN CLOSED. ACCORDING TO "TRINIDAD EXPRESS", OIL FIELD WORKERS' TRADE

UNION IN TRINIDAD HELD UP TEXACO OIL TANKER BOUND FOR GRENADA JAN 8. OWTU PRESIDENT GEORGE WEEKES RPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT TEXACO WILL COMPLY WITH TERMS OF UNION'S BOYCOTT AND NOT ATTEMPT TO SHIP OIL PRODUCTS TO GRENADA.

3. MEANWHILE, BARBADOS WORKERS' UNION ANNOUNCED JAN 10 THAT IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY GRENADA SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT

WORKERS' UNION PORT WORKERS IN BARBADOS WILL NOT HANDLE GRENADA-BOUND CARGO. SWWU HAS ALSO CONTINUED ITS REFUSAL TO UNLOAD CARGO IN GRENADA.

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